

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Baltic)/East Germany REPORT 25X1

SUBJECT Soviet Naval Vessels Sighted in the DATE DISTR. 16 May 1955  
Baltic 25X1

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DATE ACQUIRED This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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- On 5 July 1954, Soviet auxiliary [ ] followed by five landing craft in line formation, was sighted east of Ransow heading south on a route toward Sassnitz at a speed of seven knots. The group was presumably on the way to Swinoujscie. [ ] was an unarmed vessel of about 800 tons. (See sketch 1.)<sup>1</sup> It was painted gray and appeared new and well cared-for. It was flying the division chief's pennant. The landing craft were apparently former German Marine Tauchernram, about 40 meters long with a dark gray hull. A gun of about 37-mm. caliber was forward of the bridge, and another gun of about 20-mm. caliber was aft of the bridge. The landing craft flew a battle pennant with a white tip. [ ] See sketches 2 and 3.) 25X1
- At 0715 hours on 6 July, two minesweepers [ ] were sighted travelling at a speed of 14 knots on a 090° course, about 11 nautical miles east of Ransow. At 1220 hours, the same vessels were seen a little farther northwest. This time, one of them was at anchor, while the other maneuvered on a north-south course at a speed of about 12 knots. At 1813 hours, both vessels were seen going toward Sassnitz. The vessels were gray and flew the German flag. Both vessels had a tripod mast forward and a pole mast aft of the stack. The armament consisted of a single 37-mm. gun, possibly a double one, with a shield on the forecandle, and two single 37-mm. guns, one on each side of the after boat deck. Presumably, there was one double 20-mm. gun just aft of the bridge. On the deck, there were many minesweeping floats. Neither of the vessels, however, was seen with its minesweeping equipment in the water. About ten men were seen [ ] some of them in mixed civilian and naval attire.<sup>2</sup> 25X1
- From 1206 to 1248 hours on 6 July, firing was heard west of Ruegen. Eleven salvos were fired. The caliber of the guns seemed to be 120-mm. or more. 25X1

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; field distribution by "#")

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Comments:

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2. These vessels were minelayers and minesweepers of the HABICHT Class. They belonged to the Seepolizei (German coast guard) and were presumably stationed in Sassnitz.

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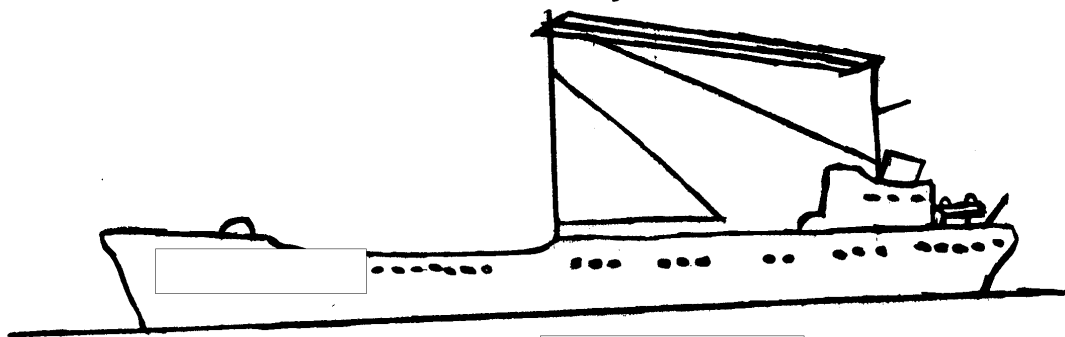
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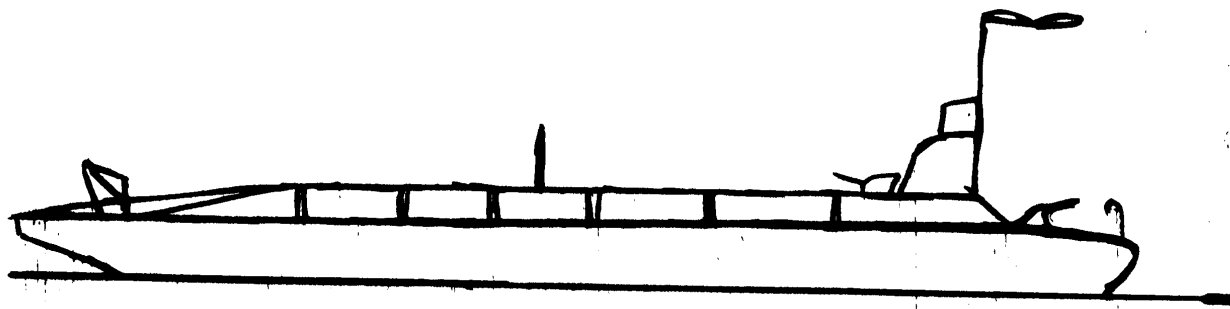
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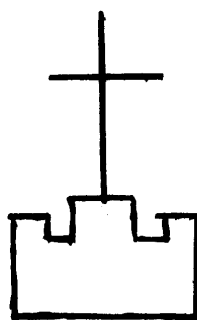
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Sketch 1. Auxiliary Vessel

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Sketch 2. Soviet Landing Craft.



Sketch 3. Bridge of Landing Craft Seen from Forward.

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